

First Presbyterian Church



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Inspired by Scripture, guided by Spirit, and nourished by our life together, we seek to be a reflection of God's radical grace. We believe God's love models a world without walls; therefore, we provide a safe and affirming home where you are welcomed exactly as you are. No matter the color or your skin, who you love, your gender, or the unique ways your mind and body work, you have a place here. Following the way of Jesus and empowering one another to grow in faith, we commit to feeding the hungry, caring for those in need, and working for justice and peace in our community and the world—living out our confidence in the promises of God.

February 8, 2026
Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

PRELUDE

Lead, Kindly Light

Richard Lloyd

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Leader: This is the day that the Lord has made.

Congregation: Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

We are delighted that you have joined us this Lord's Day. If you'd like to learn more about our mission and ministry, we invite you to speak to the Pastor or an Elder.

GATHERING AROUND GOD'S WORD

CHORAL INTROIT

I want to walk as a child of the light

GTG #377, vs. 1

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Come, you who carry many burdens and quiet hopes. Come, you who arrive weary, uncertain, or longing for renewal.

Congregation: We come seeking the One who does not abandon us.

Leader: Lift your hearts toward the God who holds the world in care and remains faithful through every season.

Congregation: We place our trust in God's enduring mercy.

Leader: Here we are shaped by grace, strengthened for the journey, and invited to walk forward together.

Congregation: We open our lives to God's renewing presence.

Leader: Let us worship the living God, who meets us where we are and leads us toward what is yet to be.

Congregation: Let us worship God.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Steady us, O God, when we grow weary, and lift our eyes toward your faithfulness. Shape us by your grace, and lead us forward in hope and trust.

Amen.

*HYMN 39 *Great is Thy Faithfulness*

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Faithful God, we confess that we grow weary and lose trust. We cling to old wounds instead of receiving your healing. We rush ahead of your wisdom and too often resist the paths you open. We forget that our strength comes from you alone. Forgive us, renew us, and steady our steps. By your grace, teach us to walk together into the future you have for us. Amen.

CHORAL RESPONSE

I want to see the brightness of God

GTG #377, vs. 2

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

The God who hung the stars and the moon has come close to each and all with mercy and love. Hear the good news of the gospel, we are forgiven and empowered by God's own Spirit to run and not be weary, to walk and not faint. Thanks be to God.

*GLORIA PATRI

HYMN NO. 581

Glory be to the Creator, and to the Christ and to the Holy Ghost.

As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end!

Amen, amen

*THE PEACE

Leader: The Peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

Congregation: And also with you.

HEARING GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION
TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES
ANTHEM

Andrew Allen
Mark Schweizer

O, Make a Joyful Noise

*O, make a joyful noise unto the Lord,
O, make a joyful noise all you lands.
O, serve the Lord with gladness;
Serve and come into God's*

*Know you the Lord has made us
And not we ourselves.*

*Come enter His gates with thanksgiving.
And into His courts with praise.
Alleluia!*

*Presence with a song.
Know you the Lord is our God.*

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

OLD TESTAMENT: Isaiah 40:21-31

OT pg. 668

NEW TESTAMENT: Hebrews 12:7-13

NT pg. 227

SERMON

Lift Up Your Eyes: Strength for the New Thing

Rev. Dale Chapin

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (Adapted from Avery Arden)

We believe in one Triune God, Creator of all things. In that beginning shared in Genesis, God brooded over the watery darkness, as in the womb, and gave birth to Creation in all its remarkable diversity--- including the day and night, and the various shades of dawn and dusk between; including the sea and land, and the shores at which they meet; and finally, including human beings with our vast diversity of mind and body all crafted in the divine image. We believe in the one Triune God, Redeemer of humanity, who, in the person of Jesus Christ, entered Creation to liberate all peoples from all forms of bond age, to redeem us even from sin, even from death itself. We believe in the one Triune God, Sustainer of all things, in whom we live, and move, and have our being whose Spirit breathes life back into parched lands and withered hearts, and pulls open every door we would keep shut, and sweeps away every line we draw in the sand. It is this we believe.

*HYMN 819 *Be Still My Soul*

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

MOMENT FOR HISTORY

Susan McGill

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

INVITATION TO OFFERING



Scan. Pay. Go.

All that we have comes to us as gift—strength for each day, grace for the journey, and hope for what is yet to come. As we offer our tithes and gifts, we respond with gratitude and trust, sharing in God's work of sustaining and renewing life in this community and beyond. Let us give with generous hearts. You may present your offering at the front of the sanctuary, or if you prefer to contribute electronically, you can do so using the PayPal QR code in your bulletin or visit our website at fpcmilledgeville.org.



OFFERTORY

Ever Faithful, Ever Near

Franklin Ritter

*DOXOLOGY

***Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below; Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise God, the source of all our gifts! Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!***

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**Gracious God, receive these gifts and our lives with them. Use them, and this church to bring healing, hope, and faithful witness in the world.
Amen.**

BEARING GOD'S WORD INTO THE WORLD

*HYMN 269 *Lead On, O King Eternal*

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

CHORAL BENEDICTION

I'm looking for the coming of Christ

GTG #377, vs. 3

POSTLUDE

Fugue in G Major

Dietrick Buxtehude

***At these times the congregation is invited to rise in body or spirit.**

We welcome Rev. Dale Chapin to the pulpit today.



CONDOLENCES

BJ Jones and family on the sudden passing of Greg Jones
Brett Turner and family on the passing of Brett's aunt Judy Turner

CHURCH FAMILY:

Harry Beck, ongoing health concerns
Nan Carpenter, ongoing health concerns
Louise Sallstrom, ongoing health concerns

EXTENDED FAMILY:

Darryl Allen, Andrew Allen's father, ongoing health concerns
Nannette Green Allen, childhood friend of Margaret Ivester with serious health issues
Kandace Allen Bivins, friend of Margaret Ivester, heart attack
Don Goggans, Elaine Goggans' son, stage four cancer
Elizabeth Knobel, Carolyn Morgan's daughter, ongoing health concerns
Charles Morgan, Jennifer Flory's father, ongoing health concerns
Joanne Murphy, Kathy Carroll's mother, ongoing health issues—at Carlyle House in Macon
John J. Murphy, Kathy Carroll's father, recovering from kidney operation
Chris Pearson, Sunda Coleman's son, recovering at home; dialysis
Renee Pearson, Sunda Coleman's daughter-in-law, diagnosed with congestive heart failure, at home
Bob Smart, Anne Smart's husband, ankylosing spondylitis
Randy Stewart, Haywood Edwards' son-in-law, ongoing health concerns
Ike Thomas, ongoing cancer treatments
Dudley Weathers, Anne Weathers' husband, at home in hospice care
Wayne Woodward, Ruby Werts' brother, diagnosed with Parkinson's

IN ASSISTED LIVING

Nan Carpenter, PO Box 527, Jefferson, GA 30549
Jude Hirsch, Fellowship Home at Meriwether, 10 Meriwether Place
Laura King, The Cottages of Milledgeville, 1010 Fernwood Drive
Maryanne Morris, Fellowship Home at Meriwether, 10 Meriwether Place
Runette Pounds, Fellowship Home at Meriwether, 10 Meriwether Place
Louise Sallstrom, The Cottages of Milledgeville, 1010 Fernwood Drive
Suzy Smith, The Oaks Peake, 400 Foster Rd., A2, Macon, GA 31210

Greeters

Feb. 8: John & Emily Bradley
Feb. 15: Pat & Sherry Henry
Feb. 22: Nancy Miller & Millie Murphy

Nursery Volunteers

Feb. 8: Nancy Miller/Joel Burns
Feb. 15: Anne Smart/Margaret Ivester
Feb. 22: Laurie Peebles/Susan McGill

Liturgists

Feb. 8: Donna Gautier
Feb. 15: Jan Hoffman



39 Great Is Thy Faithfulness

1 *Great is thy faith - ful - ness, O God my Fa - ther;
 2 Sum - mer and win - ter, and spring - time and har - vest,
 3 Par - don for sin and a peace that en - dur - eth,

there is no shad - ow of turn - ing with thee.
 sun, moon, and stars in their cours - es a - bove
 thine own dear pres - ence to cheer and to guide,

Thou chang - est not; thy com - pas - sions they fail not.
 join with all na - ture in man - i - fold wit - ness
 strength for to - day and bright hope for to - mor - row:

As thou hast been thou for - ev - er wilt be.
 to thy great faith - ful - ness, mer - cy, and love.
 bless - ings all mine, with ten thou - sand be - side!

819

Be Still, My Soul

1 Be still, my soul: the Lord is on thy side.
 2 Be still, my soul: thy God doth un - der - take
 3 Be still, my soul: the hour is has - tening on

Bear pa - tient - ly the cross of grief or pain.
 to guide the fu - ture sure - ly as the past.
 when we shall be for - ev - er with the Lord;

Leave to thy God to or - der and pro - vide,
 Thy hope, thy con - fi - dence let noth - ing shake;
 when dis - ap - point - ment, grief, and fear are gone,

who through all chang - es faith - ful will re - main.
 all now mys - te - rious shall be bright at last.
 sor - row for - got, love's pur - est joys re - stored.

This meditative text seems to be rooted in Psalm 46:10, "Be still and know that I am God," while also reaching forward to 1 Thessalonians 4:17b, "we will be with the Lord forever." Much of the appeal of this hymn comes from its tune, named for the tone poem on which it is based.

269 Lead On, O King Eternal!

1 Lead on, O King e - ter - nal! The day of march has come;
 2 Lead on, O King e - ter - nal, till sin's fierce war shall cease,
 3 Lead on, O King e - ter - nal: we fol - low, not with fears,

hence-forth in fields of con - quest your tents shall be our home.
 and ho - li - ness shall whis - per the sweet a - men of peace;
 for glad-ness breaks like morn - ing wher - e'er your face ap - pears;

Through days of prep - a - ra - tion your grace has made us strong,
 for not with swords' loud clash - ing, nor roll of stir - ring drums;
 your cross is lift - ed o'er us; we jour - ney in its light.

and now, O King e - ter - nal, we lift our bat - tle song.
 with deeds of love and mer - cy the heaven-ly king - dom comes.
 The crown a - waits the con - quest; lead on, O God of might!